CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 7 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NEW ZEALAND ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE RESPONSE OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO THE UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPON TEST CONDUCTED BY CHINA ON 15 MAY 1995 AT LOP NOR

The New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requests it to distribute the following text describing the response of the New Zealand Government and people to the underground nuclear weapon test conducted by China on 15 May at Lop Nor.

"The New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs issued a public statement on 16 May in which he conveyed the sense of extreme shock felt by all New Zealanders at the news of the Chinese test. The Minister said that the action should be 'strongly condemned' coming as it did immediately after the decision in New York to make the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent.

"The New Zealand Government believes that China's failure to declare a moratorium on its nuclear testing programme runs counter to China's responsibility as a major Power and permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. There can be no justification for any testing, especially now that China and the other nuclear weapons States have agreed to a deadline for completion of this Conference's negotiations no later than 1996.

"The strong protest of the New Zealand Government and people has been conveyed directly to the Chinese authorities in both Beijing and Wellington. New Zealand has urged China to heed the many calls made in relation to this latest test and to announce a permanent moratorium on all nuclear testing pending the conclusion of the CTBT and its entry into force."